

Harvey's death later in the year, John Jenkins resumed the governorship, retaining that position until his death in December 1681. Although his enemies denounced Jenkins as a tool of Durant, he evidently exercised considerable personal influence as a colonel of the militia and chief executive. Indeed, Jenkins served as governor, de facto and de jure, longer than any other during the proprietary era.

Sothel in the meantime was ransomed from the pirates and arrived in the colony soon after the death of Jenkins. However, his experience had altered his character, changing him from a "discreet sober gentleman" to a despotic ruler. In 1689, after an oppressive tenure of several years during which he allegedly accepted bribes and unlawfully seized property, Sothel was imprisoned and banished from the colony. His downfall was precipitated by his arrest of George Durant and the confiscation of Durant's estate. The experience pointedly demonstrated the continuing conflict between the pre-proprietary settlers and proprietary government. At the center of the turmoil was Perquimans wherein lived such pre-charter settlers as Jenkins, Harvey, and particularly Durant.

Following Culpeper's Rebellion, Perquimans Precinct served as the de facto capital of North Carolina until 1716. Provincial governors, including Robert Daniel, resided in the precinct. The General Court, which tried cases at law, and the Court of Chancery, which heard suits in equity, met in private homes, sometimes taverns, in Perquimans. Extant records show that the residences of Diana Foster, then Thomas White (whom Foster married), Thomas Nichols, John Godfrey (and at his death, his wife Elizabeth), Thomas Blount, John Hecklefield, and Richard Sanderson housed every session of the two courts from the mid-1690s through March 1716, when the seat of government was moved to Queen Anne's Creek (Edenton) in Chowan Precinct.

North Carolina continued to exhibit internal dissension in the eighteenth century. However, it ceased to involve pro-and anti-proprietary factionalism, taking instead the form of regional conflict. The decade of the 1690s witnessed the expansion of the colony southward to the Pamlico Sound, which resulted in the creation of Bath County in 1696. In 1705 the precincts of Hyde, Craven, and Beaufort were created. Economic growth, in this newly settled area, resulted in a rising demand on the part of those in the southern precincts for commensurate political power, an occasional sitting of the General Court in the south, an equalization of representation among the precincts in the legislature, and the protection of the fur trade, which was the basis of Bath's economy.

The ensuing political struggle, grounded in regional differences and the thwarted aspirations of the Bath elite, produced Cary's Rebellion in the first decade of the eighteenth century. Thomas Cary emerged as the champion of the Bath interests, but he and the Bath party received support of the Quaker element. The Quakers of the province by that time were confined almost exclusively to the precincts of Perquimans and Pasquotank. Though representing